

INFORMATION REPORT
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25X1A

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE DISTR. 24 AUG 50

SUBJECT Political Officers' School
in Potsdam

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DATE OF INFO.

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO. 25X1X

1. The Soviet Political Officers' School in Potsdam-Bornstedt is under the command of Col. Litvinenko (Jewish). He is assisted by: Lt. Col. Kuzmin (Deputy for political matters) and an unknown Lt. Col. who is Deputy for supplies. The remainder of the school's administration consists of Drill (Stroyevoi), Secret (Sekretny) and Finance (Finchast) Sections.
2. The teaching staff is headed by a Major. Under him are instructors for:
 - a. USSR History: Lt. Col. Silin, Maj. Timofeyev, Capt. Levin, Capt. Ramsow and Sr. Lt. Pelev;
 - b. Party-Political Work: Lt. Col. Gonchar;
 - c. Foreign Politics: Maj. Gutov

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Comment: Naturally the chiefs and instructors are all Communists.

3. The two months of the political course are devoted to the study of the History of the Communist Party, of the theoretical works of Lenin and Stalin, of subsequent changes within the parties of the Second International and their treacherous activity, of the course of war with Germany, and the part in it played by America and England.
4. The study of Party-Political Work takes up the structure of political organs within the Soviet army, forms and methods of political-educational work under all wartime conditions (especially during advance), forms and methods of inflaming hate toward Anglo-American imperialists, study of wartime oath and of the regulations of the Armed Forces.
5. The study of Foreign Politics takes up the politics of all countries between 1914 and 1915, during the Russian Revolution (1917-1920), USSR foreign politics between 1920 and 1941, foreign politics of the USSR, USA, England, and Germany during WW II (1941-1945), foreign politics of the United States and England in the post-war period.

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6. The last class of the school graduated 4 July 1950 after a four-day examination. It was announced to the class that 68% of the students passed the History of the Communist Party (VKP-b) "with distinction," 29% was graded "good" and 3% "satisfactory"; the Party-Political Work was passed by 79% of the students "with distinction" and 21% with "good" grades.
7. After graduation of the present (third) class, which will study until September 1950, the two-month courses will be made into six-month ones.

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Comment: Since the third class will supply most companies of the Soviet army of occupation in Germany with qualified political officers, the Soviets can afford to give more exhaustive (six months instead of two) and thorough education to their political officers.

8. According to order No. 0028 (dated 31 March 1950) of the Soviet War Minister, the candidates for political training at Potsdam are chosen from the best officers available. The selection was and is being made by the Soviet Army's political officers heretofore assigned to divisions from among officers who have been party members for 4 or more years.
9. As a result of the new order applicable to placement of political officers in Soviet army units (GPU-VS directive number 01 of 21 February 1950) at company level rather than at division and battalion level, political organs heretofore assigned to units above the level of company are to be liquidated. Also being liquidated are the deputy commanding officers for political matters in divisions and battalions because of the introduction of political deputy commanders at the company level. Excluded from this ruling are the separate battalions and divisions. The Party bureau secretaries and officials of the komsomol assigned to the divisions and battalions are being eliminated. The primary (i.e. highest level) party organization is from now on to be found in the regiments and in special battalions and special divisions. All party work on company level is to be directed by the deputy company commanders.
10. According to the decision of the Central Committee of the Russian Communist Party (TsK-VI'-b) there are courses organized at the district and city (obkum i gorkom) level for training of the civilian propagandists and agitators. These courses are of two and six months duration.

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